



Federal Emergency Management Agency

Washington, D.C. 20472

SEP 02 2005

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

IN REPLY REFER TO:
Case No.: 05-09-1059P

The Honorable Donald P. Gage
Chairman, Santa Clara County
Board of Supervisors
70 West Hedding Street, East Wing, 10th Floor
San Jose, CA 95110

Community: Santa Clara County, CA
Community No.: 060337
Panels Affected: 0070 F and 0235 E
Effective Date of **OCT 06 2005**
This Revision:

102-I-C

Dear Mr. Gage:

This responds to a request that the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) revise the effective Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) for your community in accordance with Part 65 of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) regulations. In a letter dated May 13, 2005, Ms. Rechelle R. Blank, P.E., Project Manager, Santa Clara Valley Water District, requested that FEMA revise the FIRM to show that the levee, floodwall, storm drain, weir and channel improvements, and bridge replacements along the Guadalupe River from the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) to Interstate Highway 280 (I-280) meet the "adequate progress" requirements outlined in Section 61.12 of the NFIP regulations.

All data required to complete our review of this request were submitted with letters from Ms. Blank. Because this Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) shows the effects of a federally sponsored flood-control project where 50 percent or more of the project's costs are federally funded, fees were not assessed for the review.

We have completed our review of the submitted data and the flood data shown on the effective FIRM. We have revised the FIRM to modify the floodplain boundary delineations and zone designations of the flood having a 1-percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year (base flood) along the Guadalupe River for portions of the west overbank located within the unincorporated areas of Santa Clara County from the UPRR to I-280. As a result of the modifications, the width of the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), the area that would be inundated by the base flood, for the Guadalupe River increased in some areas and decreased in other areas. The SFHA designation along the Guadalupe River has been changed to Zone A99, an area to be protected from the base flood by a Federal flood-protection system under construction that has reached specified statutory progress toward completion. The modifications are shown on the enclosed annotated copies of FIRM Panels 0070 F and 0235 E. This LOMR hereby revises effective FIRM Panels 0070 F and 0235 E, both dated December 16, 1988.

Because this revision request also affects the Cities of San Jose and Santa Clara, separate LOMRs for those communities were issued on the same date as this LOMR.

The modifications are effective as of the date shown above. The map panels as listed above and as modified by this letter will be used for all flood insurance policies and renewals issued for your community.

A review of the determination made by this LOMR and any requests to alter this determination should be made within 30 days. Any request to alter the determination must be based on scientific or technical data.

We will not physically revise and republish the FIRM for your community to reflect the modifications made by this LOMR at this time. When changes to the previously cited FIRM panels warrant physical revision and republication in the future, we will incorporate the modifications made by this LOMR at that time.

As part of this revision, the format of map panels has changed. Some of the flood insurance zone designations were changed to reflect the new format. Areas previously shown as Zone B were changed to Zone X (shaded). Areas previously shown as Zone C were changed to Zone X (unshaded).

This LOMR is based on minimum floodplain management criteria established under the NFIP. Your community is responsible for approving all floodplain development and for ensuring all necessary permits required by Federal or State law have been received. State, county, and community officials, based on knowledge of local conditions and in the interest of safety, may set higher standards for construction in the SFHA. If the State, county, or community has adopted more restrictive or comprehensive floodplain management criteria, these criteria take precedence over the minimum NFIP criteria.

The basis of this LOMR is, in whole or in part, a channel-modification project. NFIP regulations, as cited in Paragraph 60.3(b)(7), require that communities ensure that the flood-carrying capacity within the altered or relocated portion of any watercourse is maintained. This provision is incorporated into your community's existing floodplain management regulations. Consequently, the ultimate responsibility for maintenance of the modified channel rests with your community.

Because this LOMR will not be printed and distributed to primary users, such as local insurance agents and mortgage lenders, your community will serve as a repository for these new data. We encourage you to disseminate the information reflected by this LOMR throughout the community, so that interested persons, such as property owners, local insurance agents, and mortgage lenders, may benefit from the information. We also encourage you to prepare a related article for publication in your community's local newspaper. This article should describe the changes that have been made and the assistance that officials of your community will give to interested persons by providing these data and interpreting the NFIP maps.

This determination has been made pursuant to Section 206 of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (Public Law 93-234) and is in accordance with the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, as amended (Title XIII of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, Public Law 90-448), 42 U.S.C. 4001-4128, and 44 CFR Part 65. Pursuant to Section 1361 of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, as amended, communities participating in the NFIP are required to adopt and enforce floodplain management regulations that meet or exceed minimum NFIP criteria. These criteria are the minimum and do not supersede any State or local requirements of a more stringent nature. This includes adoption of the effective FIRM to which the regulations apply and the modifications made by this LOMR. Our records show that your community has met this requirement.

A Consultation Coordination Officer (CCO) has been designated to assist your community. The CCO will be the primary liaison between your community and FEMA. For information regarding your CCO, please contact:

Ms. Sally M. Ziolkowski
 Director, Federal Insurance and Mitigation Division
 Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region IX
 1111 Broadway Street, Suite 1200
 Oakland, CA 94607-4052
 (510) 627-7175

If you have any questions regarding floodplain management regulations for your community or the NFIP in general, please call the CCO for your community at the telephone number cited above. If you have any questions regarding this LOMR, please call our Map Assistance Center, toll free, at 1-877-FEMA MAP (1-877-336-2627).

Sincerely,



Michael B. Godesky, CFM, Project Engineer
 Hazard Identification Section
 Mitigation Division
 Emergency Preparedness
 and Response Directorate

For: Doug Bellomo, P.E., Chief
 Hazard Identification Section
 Mitigation Division
 Emergency Preparedness
 and Response Directorate

Enclosures

cc: The Honorable Judy Nadler
 Mayor, City of Santa Clara

The Honorable Ron Gonzales
 Mayor, City of San Jose

Mr. Thomas Shih
 Building Official/Manager
 Santa Clara County

Ms. Jennifer Sparacino
 City Manager
 City of Santa Clara

Ms. Maria Angeles
 Floodplain Manager
 Department of Public Works
 City of San Jose

Ms. Rechelle R. Blank, P.E.
 Project Manager
 Santa Clara Valley Water District